



Safe Communities and Safe Homes

"We can raise the level of awareness of domestic violence and find ways to make the system respond better. We can use our common sense in the face of rules and regulations."

— Governor Gary Locke
October 9, 1999

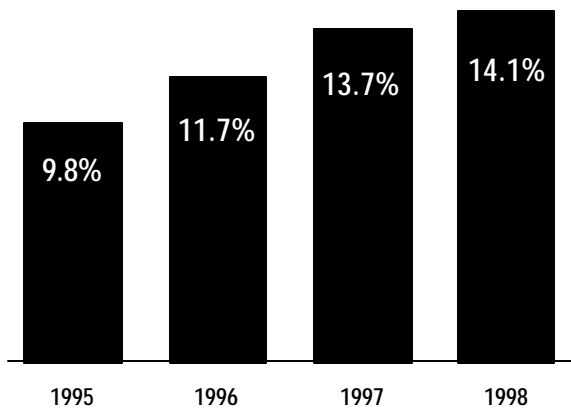
EVERY WASHINGTON CITIZEN has the right to live in safety. But ensuring that people can be reasonably safe and secure in their homes, workplaces, and communities is a diverse and challenging responsibility, not just for government, but for all of us.

Washington residents must have properly staffed and equipped police and firefighters to respond when they need them. Police should have access to a state-of-the-art crime lab and modern radio communications to help them track down criminals. Citizens who live near underground fuel pipelines must be protected from tragic events like the explosion in Bellingham that killed two boys and a young man. Illegal methamphetamine labs need to be cleaned up. Elders and persons with disabilities must have trained and competent caregivers to protect against domestic violence.

Governor Locke proposes new spending and changes in law to better ensure that people can live in safe, secure environments. His budget and policy proposals include:

- **New domestic violence prevention** funding and legislation to better protect women and children against domestic violence. The package is based on recommendations of an action group the Governor appointed to develop ways to help stop domestic violence in our state.
- **Emphasizing pipeline safety improvement** by adding a new position and resources at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to begin the necessary work to make pipelines in Washington safer. Initial steps include developing a proposal to give the state power to inspect interstate pipelines.
- **Strengthening Washington's fight against crime** by replacing a portion of funding for the State Crime Lab that was lost as a result of passage of Initiative 695; providing Washington State Patrol troopers with video cameras; modernizing public safety radio communications; creating a regional public safety information sharing system; and providing authorities the tools to track people likely to commit hate crimes.

Increases in Reported Crimes which involved Domestic Violence



SOURCE: Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs
(CRIME IN WASHINGTON: ANNUAL REPORT)

- **Keeping sex predators securely housed** and assuring treatment that meets constitutional standards, by expanding the Special Commitment Center, improving treatment, and complying with federal court orders.
- **Continuing meth-lab cleanups** with more financial resources to assist the Department of Ecology in cleaning up illegal labs, where toxic chemicals pose a serious health threat to citizens, especially children who live in or near lab sites.

Preventing Domestic Violence: Everybody's Business

Over the years, the state has been a leader in addressing the chronic problem of domestic violence, from which thousands of Washington citizens suffer each year. In 1999, the Legislature passed new laws increasing penalties for violating protective orders issued by courts and making protection orders issued by courts in other states effective in Washington.

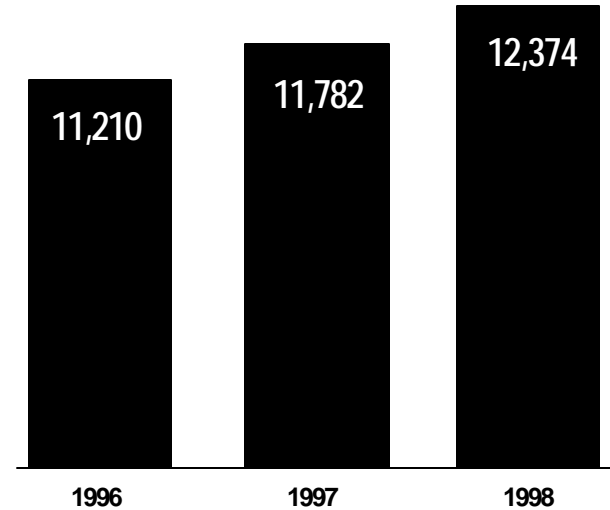
To build on these efforts, the Governor in 1999 appointed an action group of 12 experts to recommend more ways to prevent domestic violence in our state. Acting on the panel recommendations, the Governor proposes legislation and funding to increase citizen awareness, improve system coordination, help victims, and hold offenders accountable. This \$1.55 million package of improvements reflects the Governor's belief that the tragedy of domestic violence is everybody's business. His proposals will:

- **Better inform citizens** about domestic violence and how to help stop it. A four-year public awareness program includes creation of public service announcements and informational materials directed to individual citizens, families, employers, potential victims, and others. Proposed funding: \$300,000 Domestic Violence Reduction Account.
- **Improve coordination** between social service and criminal justice agencies in responding to domestic violence cases. Training for 911 emergency system operators will help police respond more effectively to requests for assistance from social service agencies. Local interagency reviews of individual domestic violence deaths will be conducted to help authorities learn more about how to prevent these tragedies. In addition, proposed legislation authorizes the Department of Social and Health Services to seek protective orders for domestic violence victims, with their consent, and requires the courts to enter protective orders for vulnerable adults in their domestic violence database. Proposed funding: \$190,000 Domestic Violence Reduction Account.
- **Help victims** through improved services. New training for WorkFirst case managers and other state employees to help them recognize and better deal with citizens who have been victimized, and to make domestic violence specialists and services available to these victims. Staff in victim shelter and advocacy programs receive training in the special needs of clients with disabilities. More staff and funds are made available to shelters and advocates to help them better serve child, elderly, or disabled victims, and victims who are members of ethnic or sexual minorities. Proposed funding: \$720,000 Domestic Violence Reduction Account.

- **Ensure batterers are held accountable** for their crimes and prevented from victimizing again. This is accomplished by strengthening penalties for violating court orders to stay a specified distance from a victim, and by offering in-service training for local law-enforcement agencies. Monitoring the quality of treatment programs for offenders makes sure effective treatment methods are used, and that treatment providers are held accountable.

A new, mandatory \$500 penalty assessment on domestic-violence convictions in district and municipal courts pays for prevention, victim services, and law enforcement improvements. This assessment would provide about \$1.5 million a year that would flow to a dedicated Domestic Violence Reduction Account. Proposed funding: \$340,000.

Criminal Violations of Court Orders Against Domestic Violence Are Increasing



SOURCE: Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs
(CRIME IN WASHINGTON: ANNUAL REPORT)

Long-Term Care in the Home: New Safety Challenges

More attention is also needed to prevent abuse and neglect of a growing number of people who receive long-term care in their homes. The Governor in 1999 directed a face-to-face review of all high-risk, in-home care situations to reduce the chances of abuse. He also directed the Department of Social and Health Services to review its home care program standards and operations and develop proposals to enhance quality service now and in the future.

As a result of these reviews, the Governor proposes legislation, administrative actions, and funding for a home care initiative that aims to improve quality, provide assistance to clients who employ care givers, and improve Adult Protective Services. The package will:

- **Enhance home care worker qualifications** screening by obtaining FBI interstate criminal history background checks. Currently, background checks are limited to a review of criminal history in Washington State. Recent changes in law make drug crimes a permanent disqualifier for home-care workers. A new registry of people found to have abused, neglected, or exploited a vulnerable adult will prevent their employment in long-term care. A change in law allows the Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) to deny payment to inadequate caregivers, and to improve training for all caregivers. Proposed funding: \$1.22 million GF-S, \$2.44 million total.

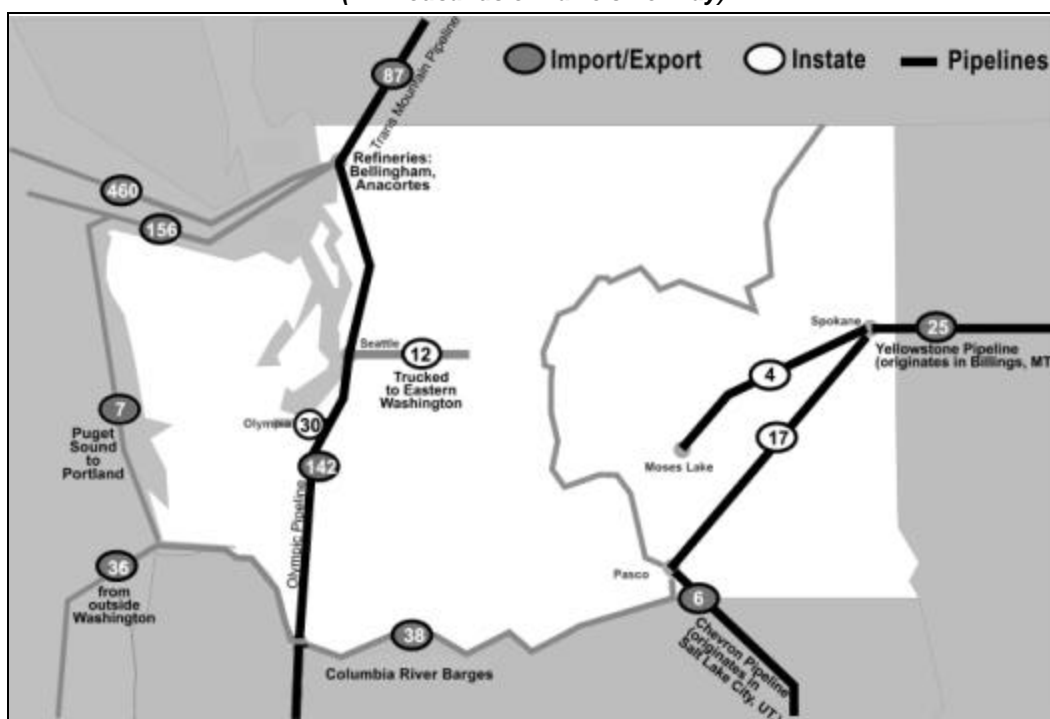
- **Implement a client-as-employer pilot program** to serve 750 clients who receive services from individual providers they hire and supervise, and who are paid with DSHS funds. The pilot program will operate in two locations in the state. It will produce a video on how to be an employer, and provide client training on hiring, supervising, and firing workers. Proposed funding: \$116,000 GF-S, \$226,000 total.
- **Improve Adult Protective Services** in DSHS by establishing Adult Protective Teams in each region of the state, including law enforcement officers, health care and social service professionals, and domestic violence specialists. The teams will provide consultation when needed in cases involving possible guardianship petitions, denial of access to clients, and allegations of abuse or neglect from multiple sources. Adult Protective Services will receive reports by e-mail, voice mail and fax during hours when its reporting phone lines are not staffed, so that reports can be made at any time. The number of Adult Protective Services staff will be increased to keep up with the caseload, which is growing at the rate of 8 percent a month. Proposed funding: \$842,000 GF-S, \$1.7 million total.

Pipeline Safety: The Bellingham Explosion

In June 1999, an underground gasoline pipeline ruptured, sending thousands of gallons of gasoline into creeks in Bellingham's Whatcom Falls Park. The accident brought home the need for close scrutiny and extreme caution in constructing, operating, and maintaining petroleum and natural gas pipelines in Washington. Governor Locke noted that the federal government is responsible for the safety of petroleum pipelines like the one at Bellingham, but said the state should take a more active role in monitoring and advocating pipeline safety.

Movement of Petroleum Products in Washington State

(In Thousands of Barrels Per Day)



SOURCE: Department of Ecology, 1997

The State Must Be Prepared and Informed

The state must ensure that we are prepared and informed about how to react in the event of a major pipeline accident. The Governor established a Fuel Accident Prevention and Response Team to evaluate our state's current status and make recommendations if shortcomings were revealed. He directed the team to report back to him, and it did so in early December. Based on the team's recommendations, the Governor proposes \$345,000 GF-S to make underground pipelines safer. Among his recommendations:

- **Establish a pipeline safety improvement position**, and provide other resources to the UTC. These added resources will be devoted to improving coordination of pipeline safety oversight by the UTC, the Department of Ecology, and the State Fire Marshal's Office. The resources will also be used to develop a proposal for an enhanced pipeline safety program. The state also will work with Washington's congressional delegation to amend the Federal Pipeline Safety Act to allow states to set more stringent standards and direct the federal Office of Pipeline Safety (OPS) to delegate oversight of interstate lines to qualified states, complete with adequate funding.
- **Direct various state agencies to take actions** aimed at improving pipeline safety. This will include instructing the State Fire Marshal to gauge local emergency response equipment needs in communities with transmission pipelines, and to develop a curriculum for training first responders. The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council will be instructed to work with the Legislature on an interim study about changing the state law on siting energy facilities and pipelines.
- **Evaluate the need for other changes.** Request the Washington Utilities Coordinating Council (a voluntary organization of contractors and utilities) to work with the UTC and the public to re-examine the Call-Before-You-Dig law and evaluate the need for legislative changes.

Providing Resources to Reduce Crime in Washington

Every Washington citizen should be able to feel secure and safe in his or her community, and more resources are needed to ensure this safety. Those resources include restoring funding to crime labs, increasing levels of screening and tracking of potential criminals, and equipping Washington State Patrol troopers with state-of-the-art tools to fight crime. Funds are provided to improve a program to securely house and treat violent sex offenders, and to cover costs associated with the Washington Trade Organization Conference and other emergent needs.

Our State Crime Labs: Restoring Funding to Fight Crime

In Washington's fight against crime, one of the most important accomplishments in recent years was establishment of the Washington State Patrol's six laboratories to help police across the state analyze evidence and solve crimes. But the labs were partly funded with revenue from the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax, which was repealed when Washington voters approved Initiative 695. The work of the crime labs, with their skilled technicians and high-tech equipment, is vital to public safety and law enforcement. The Governor proposes using \$1.4 million from the state General Fund and \$1.9 million from the State Patrol Highway Account to restore lost funding for the labs.

Stopping Hate Crimes: More Tools to Track Offenders

The shooting of seven people in Los Angeles by a gunman who was under Washington State supervision for a previous crime showed the need for better screening and tracking of offenders with mental illness or links to hate groups. The Governor directed state agencies to develop a plan that includes legislation and funding to give selected corrections staff access to organized-crime intelligence maintained by the State Patrol and mental health records kept by DSHS and local mental health agencies. It also includes funding for mental health evaluations of convicted high-risk offenders to give sentencing courts and supervising corrections officers better information. Proposed funding: \$248,000 GF-S.

A System to Share Public Safety Information

Criminals know no political boundaries or jurisdictions, and law enforcement officials need the tools to communicate and share information about criminal activity. The Governor proposes creation of the Regional Information-Sharing System Network (RISSNET) under the control of the Washington State Patrol. The system will comprise a number of computer applications designed to aid in the identification, tracking, analysis, and apprehension of criminals. The RISSNET will make vital criminal intelligence and investigation data available to law enforcement and corrections personnel across Washington State on a 24-hour basis. Proposed funding: \$382,000 GF-S.

Video Cameras in State Patrol Cars

Washington State Patrol troopers are at risk whenever they perform a traffic stop. The Governor proposes to install video cameras in all “front line” patrol cars. In addition to deterring criminal activity, the cameras will provide valuable evidence in the prosecution of crimes. Proposed funding: \$4 million Washington State Patrol Highway Account.

Better Radio Communications for Public Safety Agencies

Hundreds of state, local, and federal public safety agencies throughout Washington use radio communication to support everyday public safety operations and to respond to natural disasters and emergencies. The systems use numerous and different radio frequency bands and a variety of technologies. Their inability to communicate readily with one another compromises the well-being of both citizens and public safety workers. To address this problem, funding will be used to: (1) assess the impact of the current communications environment; (2) develop a strategy to provide reliable communications for Washington's public safety agencies; and (3) begin Phase 1 implementation of the study recommendations for the Washington State Patrol. Proposed funding: \$5 million Washington State Patrol Highway Account.

Treating Chronic Sex Offenders in a Secure Housing Program

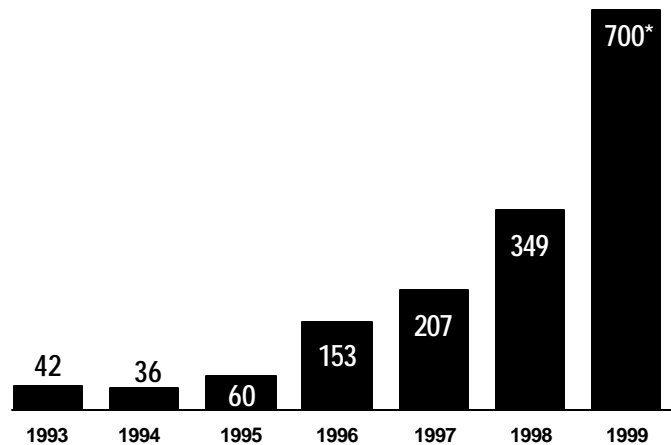
Washington's pioneering civil commitment law for sexually violent predators, who have completed criminal sentences, securely houses growing numbers of residents for treatment in the Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island. Staffing and other improvements are needed to assure that treatment meets standards established by federal courts, and reduce the possibility of court orders releasing residents prematurely. The Governor proposes expanding the Special Commitment Center, increasing treatment staff, improving treatment and other conditions to comply with court orders, and meeting the legal costs of civil commitment proceedings. Proposed funding: \$5.5 million GF-S, \$19.5 million total.

Toxic Meth Labs: Cleaning Up Deadly Hazards

One of the state's most challenging law enforcement and public health problems is the rapid growth in the number of makeshift labs to manufacture the illegal stimulant, methamphetamine. The number of meth labs discovered in 1999 is double the number discovered in 1998, and the number last year almost doubled from the previous year.

Last year, the Legislature funded creation of a dedicated meth lab response team in the State Patrol, but law enforcement is only part of the response we need to this deadly crime. Meth makers use toxic chemicals ranging from corrosive acids to heavy metals, and those substances pose a major health hazard to citizens, especially children, living around or in meth labs. The explosive growth in meth labs has left the Department of Ecology in need of additional resources for cleanup and disposal of these dangerous chemicals. Proposed funding: \$750,000 GF-S.

Meth Labs Cleaned Up in Washington Have Nearly Doubled Every Year Since 1994



SOURCE: Washington State Department of Ecology, 1999
* 1999 figures are estimated

Cougar and Bear Control

Since a reporting system was put into place in 1995, reports of encounters between people and cougar and bear have increased dramatically, raising concerns about property damage, pet and livestock losses, and human safety. The Department of Fish and Wildlife does not have adequate enforcement officers and biologists to investigate and respond to public complaints. Additional staff are provided for the Department to allow a more timely response to the public and to take appropriate actions. Proposed funding: \$1.1 million GF-S.

Other Important Needs Addressed

Other important safety needs addressed by the Governor's supplemental budget include:

- \$2.62 million for extended placement of prison inmates at out-of-state facilities while construction of the Stafford Creek Corrections Center is completed.
- \$78,000 for the Northwest Weather and Avalanche Center to operate for the winter months, providing weather and avalanche forecasts for motorists, skiers, and other people participating in outdoor recreation activities.
- Up to \$3 million of existing Local Toxics Control Account funds are specifically directed to cleanup actions at the Everett smelter site.